That frosts will bite them. When we mean to
build,
We first survey the plot, then draw the model;
And, when we see the figure of the house,
Then must we rate the cost of the erection :
Which if we find outweighs ability,
What do we then, but draw anew the model
In fewer offices; or, at least[5], desist
To build at all ? Much more, in this great work,
(Which is, almost, to pluck a kingdom down,
And set another up,) should we survey
The plot of situation, and the model;
Consent upon a sure foundation[6];
Question surveyors; know our own estate,
How able such a work to undergo,
To weigh against his opposite: or else,
We fortify in paper, and in figures,
Using the names of men, instead of men :
Like one that draws the model of a house
Beyond his power to build it; who, half through,
Gives o'er, and leaves his part-created cost
A naked subject to the weeping clouds,
And waste for churlish winter's tyranny.

HAST. Grant, that our hopes (yet likely of fair
birth,)
Should be still born, and that we now possess'd
The utmost man of expectation:
I think, we are a body strong enough,
Even as we are, to equal with the king.

BARD. What! is the king but five and twenty
thousand ?

HAST. To us, no more; nay, not so much, lord
Bardolph.

5— at least.] Perhaps we should read—at last. STEEVENS.

6 CONSENT upon a sure foundation;] i. e, agree. So, in As You Like It, vol. vi, p. 437 : " For all your writers do *consent* that ipse is he." Again, ibid. p. 489 : "—r *consent* with both, that we may enjoy each other,"